

I/We claim:

1. A jack assembly for supporting a brake assembly, the jack assembly comprising:

a base;

a selectively extensible member extending from the base; and

5 a support member secured to the extensible member.

2. The jack assembly of claim 1, further including:

means for securing the support member to an associated brake assembly.

3. The jack assembly of claim 2, wherein the securing means includes first and second arms having threaded ends for securing the arms to the associated brake assembly.

4. The jack assembly of claim 3, wherein:

the securing means includes third and fourth arms; and

the first, second, third, and fourth arms are in spaced relation.

5. The jack assembly of claim 1, wherein the support member includes a plurality of arms dimensioned for support of the associated brake assembly.

6. The jack assembly of claim 1, wherein the support member is mounted to the extensible member for selective pivotal movement relative thereto.

7. The jack assembly of claim 1, wherein the base includes rollers allowing the assembly to be transported across a floor surface.

8. The jack assembly of claim 1, wherein the extensible member is rotatable for selective movement about a vertical axis relative to the base.

9. The jack assembly of claim 1, wherein the extensible member is a fluid cylinder.

10. The jack assembly of claim 9, wherein the fluid cylinder is pneumatic.
11. The jack assembly of claim 1, wherein the extensible member is a mechanical actuator.
12. The jack assembly of claim 1, wherein the extensible member is an electric actuator.
13. A method of unmounting/mounting a brake caliper with respect to a heavy vehicle, the method comprising:
positioning a tool adjacent to the brake caliper;
unmounting the brake caliper from the vehicle; and
5 mounting the brake caliper to the tool.
14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
removing a brake chamber from the brake caliper before mounting the caliper to the tool.
15. The method of claim 13, wherein the mounting step includes:
attaching the tool to the brake caliper via openings in the caliper.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the mounting step further includes:
securing the brake caliper to the tool.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the securing step includes:
fastening the tool to the brake caliper.
18. The method of claim 13, wherein the positioning step includes:
aligning first and second arms of the tool with openings of the brake caliper.
19. The method of claim 13, wherein the mounting step includes:
cradling the caliper in a plurality of arms on the tool.

20. A tool for loading/unloading a brake assembly from a vehicle, comprising:
a selectively extensible member extending from a base; and
a plurality of arms for supporting the brake housing.

21. The tool for loading/unloading a brake assembly as set forth in claim 20, wherein the arms are arranged to be in alignment with openings in the brake assembly, the brake assembly being loaded onto the vehicle and unloaded from the vehicle via the openings.

22. The tool for loading/unloading a brake assembly as set forth in claim 21, further comprising:
fasteners for securing the brake assembly on the arms.

23. The tool for loading/unloading a brake assembly as set forth in claim 20, further comprising:
a base secured to the extensible member.

24. The tool for loading/unloading a brake assembly as set forth in claim 23, further comprising:
means for moving the base.

25. The tool for loading/unloading a brake assembly as set forth in claim 24, wherein the means for moving the base includes wheels.

26. The tool for loading/unloading a brake assembly as set forth in claim 21, further comprising:
a boom for rotating the support member about a vertical axis defined by the extensible member.